

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a BCMA (B Cell Maturation Antigen) polypeptide effective to inhibit B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises:

- (a) an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (B-cell activating factor of the TNF family; SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1; or
- (b) an amino acid sequence that binds to a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:9 and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1,

and wherein the BCMA polypeptide does not comprise the transmembrane domain of BCMA (amino acids 53 to 81 of SEQ ID NO:1).

33. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

36. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that binds to BAFF (SEQ ID NO:9) and is at least 95% identical to amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 wherein the BCMA polypeptide comprises amino acids 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

39-61. (Canceled)